

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and purified poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets.
2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer is made by a method comprising a step of mixing comprised of poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber slurry with platelet rich plasma.
3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the ~~composition is 50%~~ platelet rich plasma and 50% poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry are mixed at a ratio of 50:50.
4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2, wherein the poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry comprises 1 mg of poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 5 ml of distilled water.
5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition is equal parts platelet rich plasma and poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber slurry and further comprises at least 0.125% of a CaCl₂ solution.
6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the CaCl₂ solution is a 10% CaCl₂ solution.
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and 1 mg of poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 1.0 ml of 0.9% NaCl solution, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets.

9. (currently amended) A composition comprising platelet rich plasma and 2 mg of poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine fiber per 1.0 ml of 0.9% NaCl solution, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from preserved platelets.
10. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2-6, 8 or 9, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.
11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2-6, 8 or 9, wherein the composition is a gel.
12. (withdrawn) A method for preserving platelets isolated from a mammal for later therapeutic use, the method comprising contacting said platelets with poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers, such that a gel is formed and freezing the gel for later therapeutic use.
13. (withdrawn) A method of aggregating platelets isolated from a mammal, the method comprising contacting poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers to the platelets, aggregating the platelets.
14. (withdrawn) A method of activating platelets isolated from a mammal, the method comprising contacting poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymers to the platelets, thereby activating the platelets.
15. (previously presented) A method for accelerating wound healing in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to a wound a composition comprising platelet rich plasma and poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from stored platelets, such that wound healing is accelerated in the patient.
16. (withdrawn) A method for reducing hemostasis time in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to a wound a composition comprising platelet rich plasma and poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber, wherein the platelet rich plasma is derived from stored platelets, such that hemostasis time is reduced in the patient.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein the stored platelets are derived from the patient.
18. (currently amended) A method for producing a platelet-poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber gel comprising, mixing a population of isolated platelets with poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber ~~solution~~ slurry in the presence of a 10% calcium chloride solution in an amount effective to elicit formation of a platelet-poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fiber gel, such that the platelets bind poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4-N-acetylglucosamine polymer fibers in greater numbers in comparison to a mixture comprising equivalent amounts of chitosan fibers and platelets.
19. (withdrawn) A method for producing a platelet-fiber gel, comprising: mixing (i) a population of isolated platelets with (ii) a fiber to which platelets bind in greater numbers than to chitosan, said mixing being performed in solution, such that the platelets bind to the fiber, thereby forming a platelet-fiber gel.
20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the mixing is performed in the presence of a 10% calcium chloride solution.
21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein at least 25%, 50%, 100%, 200% or 500% more platelets bind to the fiber than to chitosan having approximately the same surface area as the fiber.